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JOURNAL

OF THE

New York Entomological Society.

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ANNUAL ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT.*

Gentlemen: The satisfactory growth of the society is reflected in some statistics prepared by our secretary and our treasurer. The membership has increased from 54 in 1907 to 75 in 1910. The average attendance at our meetings has increased from 15 in 1907 to 23 in 1910, and we have had on several occasions an attendance of over 30. It is gratifying to note that usually each one present takes part in the discussion of the papers presented, and that the speaker is always followed with close attention, indicating not only a large, but a deeply interested membership.

The activity of the society is also manifest in the informal meetings of which no regular announcement is made. These have lately been held on Saturday afternoons, but were held last year on Sunday mornings, and will probably be continued on both days during 1911. There is usually also a gathering before the meeting on Tuesday evenings, continued during the evening meal, and as I am told, even after the formal adjournment, entomological matters may still be under discussion somewhere at a so-called "annex" meeting. Members and visitors are welcome at these informal meetings, at which possibly better opportunities occur for naming and exchanging specimens than at the regular meetings.

The financial condition of the society is as satisfactory as the membership. During the seven years that Mr. Davis has acted as treasurer the balance has grown from \$834 to \$1,148. The society

* Read before the Society at its annual meeting, January 3, 1911.

derives a part of its income from the interest on this fund, and apart from the journal account has now an annual income of \$226, as against \$173 in 1907. The annual expenses would be very small were they not by votes of the society increased from time to time for special meritorious purposes, such as the purchase of bookcases, subscriptions to certain publications, such as the new catalogue of beetles and particularly the support of the JOURNAL. The JOURNAL has cost the society for the last seven years more than has been received from subscriptions and sales of back volumes, which deficit has been readily met from our income; and still our balance in hand has increased. In this connection it should also be remembered that the society receives a considerable number of exchanges which offset the expenditure it makes in printing the JOURNAL.

The minutes of the meetings carefully recorded for many years by Mr. Barber and published in our JOURNAL also indicate the vigor of the society and the enthusiasm of its members. It is difficult to make any exact statement of increase in length of these minutes, for they vary greatly in proportion to the number of papers that are selected for publication unabridged in our JOURNAL; but they are evidently longer, more diversified and more interesting in proportion to the increased number of coöperating active members. They chronicle the presentation of papers on all orders of insects, and on all phases of entomology. The name of every member appears at some time, and the names of many honored visitors; and often, happily for us, the visitor, like Professor Crampton, likes us well enough to become a member. I am sure that you will all agree that Mr. Barber's skill and patient industry as recording secretary have contributed in no small measure to the society's success for the many years he has served us.

The condition of JOURNAL affairs is in many respects exceedingly satisfactory. Its circulation is as large as it ever has been. Under Dr. Wheeler's editorial care, its scientific standing has been unequaled in its previous history, and it has been largely the work of our own members. In 1906 but three members contributed to its pages, while in recent years the number has steadily increased, and in 1910 there are 12. Alphabetically arranged the members who have been contributors to the JOURNAL in recent years are: H. G. Barber, W. Beutenmüller, G. Beyer, J. R. de la Torre Bueno, W. T. Davis, R. P. Dow, H. G. Dyar, J. A. Grossbeck, L. H. Joutel, W. D. Kear-

fott, C. W. Leng, Ignaz Matausch, C. E. Olsen, R. C. Osburn, C. H. Roberts, C. Schaeffer, C. E. Sleight, J. B. Smith, J. D. Sherman, Jr., and W. M. Wheeler. Most of these names will be found in the index of authors for the last three years. The JOURNAL has become in fact as well as in name the Journal of the New York Entomological Society.

The local collection is a recent feature of the society's activity and, under the management of Dr. Lutz and with the hearty coöperation of our members, reflects in a most gratifying way the strength of our society. The intention is that ultimately this collection shall contain many specimens of every species to be found within about fifty miles of Manhattan, accurately determined by specialists, all catalogued with complete data arranged in card form and accompanied by tables exhibiting the differences by which the species are separated. Thus far labels have been prepared for the species believed to occur within the boundaries selected, specimens have been inserted as far as available material permitted, and many of the groups have been carefully gone over by specialists. Much remains to be done and some time must elapse before the local collection attains its maximum usefulness. The donations to the local collection and the workers upon it have been so many that I hesitate to single out any for praise for fear of unintentionally doing injustice by omission.

The library of the society has been in charge of Mr. Schaeffer for the last nine years and its growth during that time has been entirely the result of his efforts. When he became librarian the books and pamphlets scarcely filled three shelves; now new book cases are continually required to hold the accumulating volumes. Nine years ago our JOURNAL was sent free to many societies and institutions; now under his management we receive in exchange the publications of nearly every important society and institution, and by free gift the entomological publications of the National Museum. We exchange with about thirty societies and institutions. By vote of the society the librarian is also authorized to acquire entomological works by purchase, and during the past year this authority has been used to buy Blatchley's Beetles of Indiana, and to subscribe to the new catalogue of the Beetles of the World. It is to be regretted that our members do not derive more benefit from the possession of these journals and books, and it may be possible for the executive commit-

tee and the librarian in consultation to devise a plan for making the library a more prominent feature of the society's activity.

The satisfactory progress of the society during recent years which I have endeavored to illustrate, has been due largely to the motherly care of the American Museum of Natural History, which has at different times allowed us to use various rooms in the museum as our meeting place and finally our present luxurious quarters where we have an abundance of room, light, warmth, current literature, use of library and collection, and last but not least, this famous table about which our entire membership can gather in dignity and comfort. Not only on meeting nights are these advantages open to us free of cost, but practically every day, Sundays and holidays included, whenever the museum is open to the public our members can consult the local collection, the library and the curator. We owe a lasting debt of gratitude to this museum and its trustees and officers, which I am happy to say has been recognized by our members in donations of specimens and other ways.

Thus far I have spoken of the past and present of our society and its journal. I wish now to refer briefly to the future. The society will always need new members and young members. Every year resignation and death remove men whose loss we keenly feel. 1910 was no exception to the rule, but unhappily witnessed the death of our honored friend Zabriskie. The society can only keep its present strength and gain more by the election of new members, and I hope that each one of us will bear this in mind and propose some young friend for membership during the year.

The local collection will for a long time, perhaps always, need donations of specimens and particularly of carefully labelled specimens. There has been great progress in this respect since the days when some of us were young, and a state label is no longer the satisfying adjunct to a specimen that it was in the days of Schaupp. The system now recommended by our curator is one by which the specimen in addition to its locality label bears a number which refers to a field card upon which complete ecological data can be entered. Copies of such cards can be had from the curator, and the free use of them by our members will preserve a fund of information and field experience which at present is largely lost.

The JOURNAL needs short paragraphs as well as important papers

and I do not believe I exaggerate in saying that each of us can contribute at least one during the year. Such paragraphs may refer to interesting captures, to life histories or habits, to variations, collecting places, to anything that in conversation we would think worth mentioning. The editor will find it easier to make up his pages, our subscribers will find the JOURNAL more interesting, and those who have not heretofore contributed will especially benefit themselves and others by making it a point to contribute at least one paragraph during 1911.

In closing there is one point that I wish especially to bring to your attention, which is the advantage of specializing in some one group in addition to the study of entomology in general. The number of insects in the world is so great that no one can expect to become expert in all. The number even in most of the families is appalling. It follows that the best taxonomic work is done by experts who confine their studies to some comparatively small group in which, however, they include the species of the whole world. And, in Coleoptera at least, it is to be regretted that at present such experts are almost invariably Europeans. Among the members of our society it is gratifying to note a tendency to depart from this situation. And I would urge upon our members the opportunities they enjoy for following up the suggestion I make and the advantage that would accrue to themselves and the society from its adoption. This museum contains much foreign material, the National Museum likewise and Mr. Hallinan's collection is rich in insects from Panama. Outside of the European species such material is largely unnamed, and I am sure the owners in every instance would welcome the assistance of specialists. It is not difficult to obtain such material from European dealers and if the group selected is small it is not especially expensive. The West Indies are easily and cheaply reached, and are rich in undescribed species. The field is open to each of us to select some small group and form a collection that will reflect credit upon its possessor and be of service to his friends while at the same time the reputation of our society and JOURNAL will become enhanced. Upon the younger members of the society especially I would urge that an entomological reputation can be honestly earned most rapidly by taking up some small family, accumulating the described species and literature, and proceeding at once to the description of the now unknown forms.

Dr. Leconte was only twenty when he published his first descriptions. The material is on hand in this building waiting for you to go to work and follow in his footsteps.

Gentlemen, I thank you for your attention, and congratulating you upon the healthy growth of the society and urging upon you the need of more copious field notes, of more paragraphs for the JOURNAL and of more specialists in the society, I wish you all good health, good luck and lots of good bugs for 1911.

NOTES ON COCCINELLIDÆ. IV.

BY CHARLES W. LENG,

WEST NEW BRIGHTON, NEW YORK.

VARIABLE MACULATION IN COCCINELLIDÆ.

The variable character of the maculation of the Coccinellidæ is not only shown by inspection of the insects themselves but is reflected in the numerous specific names indicating spots, stripes and bands that have been applied to them. In no other family do we find so many names like *unipunctata*, *bipunctata*, *tripunctata*, etc., which are repeated in the Coccinellidæ over and over again and might be arranged in a complete series to *28-punctata*, with no numbers missing except perhaps 17 and 23. Even combinations like *bistripustulata* have been formed to indicate the number of spots; and *fasciatus* and *cinctus* and *lineatus* in all manner of combinations to describe other styles of ornamentation.

The question arises in the study of these insects as to how much importance is to be attached to these differences in maculation. Does each pattern indicate a genus or a species, and each variation in the pattern a subspecies or variety requiring a name; or are the differences sometimes merely individual characteristics? Are some of the species capable of producing offspring decidedly different in maculation? Are such differences in maculation partly due to temperature and moisture or some other pupal environment?

In connection with these questions we may compare the method of treating similar differences in the European Coccinellidæ and two papers that have recently appeared in America, viz., "Notes on the